

The East Glastonbury  
Fish and Game Association, Inc.

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March 12, 2014

Environment Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Ave Hartford, CT 06106

Re: H.B. No.5080 AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON  
PRIVATE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON  
PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS

Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

On behalf of the 220 members of the East Glastonbury Fish and Game, I am writing in support of H.B 5080. Connecticut's Sunday hunting ban is simply an antiquated blue law that needs to be repealed.

The population density established by DEEP for a healthy and sustainable deer population in balance with the ecosystem is less than or equal to 20 deer per square mile. There are 13 deer management zones in Connecticut. Only five zones are at goal. The other 8 zones, which include 123 towns out of 169, have an overabundant deer population. Three of the 8 zones have deer densities of 20 to 32 deer per square mile. Three zones have a population of 32 to 56 deer per square mile and two zones have more than 56 deer per square mile.

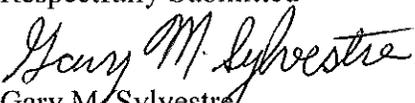
Extension of the current hunting season is not practical. The best option is to allow hunting on Sunday during the current bow hunting season. This will add 16 days of hunting when most hunters have the day off. Harvest data collected for many years by DEEP indicates that the number of deer killed on weekend days is more than twice the number killed on weekdays. Also, hunting on Sunday in 42 other states has proven to be effective in increasing the deer harvest. Connecticut's bow hunters harvest 50% of all deer taken during the hunting season.

Deer hunting with a bow and arrows is safe. It does not jeopardize public safety. There has never been an incident involving bow hunting that has resulted in injury to a non- hunter since bow hunting was established in Connecticut over 35 years ago.

Bow and arrow hunting does not limit outdoor opportunities on private property. Hunters must obtain written permission from the landowner to hunt. Therefore, private landowners determine what recreational activities they will allow on their property. It is very likely that hunting on Sunday will occur on private property that is already open to hunters.

For all the above reasons, we urge the environment committee to pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Gary M. Sylvestre  
President EGF&GA